

Institute of Contemporary University Art of Pennsylvania

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NEWS RELEASE

BASEL ABBAS AND RUANNE ABOU-RAHME: THE INCIDENTAL INSURGENTS

FEBRUARY 4–MARCH 22, 2015

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

PUBLIC RECEPTION: 6–8PM (FREE FOR ALL)

EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH: 5PM (ICA MEMBERS ONLY)

WITH CURATOR KATE KRACZON AND ARTISTS BASEL ABBAS AND RUANNE ABOU-RAHME

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Taking the contemporary moment in Palestine as a starting point, New York–and Ramallah-based artists Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme address the eclipsing of political radicality and the search for a new political imaginary in the first US presentation of their sprawling, multi-segmented installation, *The Incidental Insurgents* (2012–present). In *The Incidental Insurgents: The Part about the Bandits* and *Part II: The Unforgiving Years*, the first two chapters of their trilogy, Abbas and Abou-Rahme fold Jean-Luc Godard into Roberto Bolaño into Victor Serge, using a suspiciously slick video component and a convoluted script made of sampled text and images. The installation was most recently exhibited at the 2014 Bienal de São Paulo.

This exhibition also serves as an incubator for the third and final chapter of the trilogy. In line with their archive-based, research-driven practice, Abbas and Abou-Rahme will utilize the vast resources available at ICA through the University of Pennsylvania and other Philadelphia institutions to further develop Part III, which will debut at the Sharjah Biennial in March 2015. This exhibition, organized by Assistant Curator Kate Krazcon, will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue and will be preceded by a related workshop, organized in collaboration with Alex Klein, the Dorothy and Stephen R. Weber (CHE'60) Program Curator.

Basel Abbas (b. 1983, Nicosia, Cyprus; lives New York and Ramallah) and **Ruanne Abou-Rahme** (b. 1983, Boston; lives New York and Ramallah) have



Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme, *The Incidental Insurgents: The Part about the Bandits*, 2013, production still. Courtesy of the artists and Carroll/Fletcher Gallery.

CONTACT

JILL KATZ

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING &
COMMUNICATIONS

215.573.9975

PUBLICITY@ICAPHILA.ORG

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

118 SOUTH 36TH STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-3289

WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG



Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme, *The Incidental Insurgents: The Part about the Bandits*, 2013, production still. Courtesy of the artists and Carroll/Fletcher Gallery.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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118 SOUTH 36TH STREET AT THE
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MUSEUM HOURS

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collaborated since 2009 on research-based multimedia installations. Since 2010 they have performed together with musician boikutt as the video and sound group Tashweesh.

Their solo exhibitions include the upcoming *Of Love, Departures and Countering Defeats in Choleric Times. Three Stagings* at the Office for Contemporary Art Norway (April–May 2015); *The Zone* at New Art Exchange, Nottingham (2011); and *Collapse* at the Delfina Foundation, London (2009). They have participated in group exhibitions at institutions such as the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London (2013), Jerusalem Show VI (2012), 6th Liverpool Biennial (2010), and the Palestinian Pavilion at the 53rd Venice Biennale (2009), and will be included in an upcoming group exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw.

Abbas and Abou-Rahme's *The Incidental Insurgents* has appeared in numerous international exhibitions and biennials, including the 2013 Istanbul Biennial (Part I); the 2014 Bienal de São Paulo (Parts I and II); the 2014 Alte Feuerwache, Cologne (Part II); and the 2014 Gwangju Biennale (Part II). Part III of this project will debut at the 12th Sharjah Biennale, which opens in March 2015. "The Incidental Insurgents: A lecture performance" has been held at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt HKW, Berlin (2013); Tanzquartier Wien, MuseumsQuartier, Vienna (2013); and the Akademie der Künste der Welt, Cologne (2012). Abbas and Abou-Rahme are represented by Carroll/Fletcher in London.

Support for *Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme: The Incidental Insurgents* has been provided by Kirk Kirkpatrick.

RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The Incidental Insurgents Saturday, February 7, 2PM

Join Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme for a performative lecture to accompany their ICA exhibition.